

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Miss. Acteens learn, minister at NAC

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Every four to five years, Acteens from across the country convene for the National Acteens Convention (NAC), sponsored by the national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Nearly 6,500 teenage girls attended this year's conference in Nashville, including approximately 467 from Mississippi.

"The goal of the conference is to bring all the girls together in a missions environment and atmosphere. It's one thing to have a small group of Acteens in a church and take them to the state convention, so it's helpful to for them to see the bigger picture with all those kids together," said Robin Keels, consultant with the Mississippi Baptist WMU.

While there were many training and conference opportunities, one unique feature of the conference was the opportunity for the Acteens to have some hands-on missions experiences.

"We provided backpacks, bought school supplies for the backpacks, and took these backpacks to 42 elementary schools in Nashville. Then we also did mission projects at 70 schools," said Keels.

Katy Barnard, an Acteen from Mount Olive church in Smithdale, shared some of her experiences with Keels and The Baptist Record.

"When we arrived at the convention center, I realized NAC was going to be like nothing I have ever experienced," wrote Katy. "It was just that."

Katy explained that the day was broken down into one or two general sessions, a lunch and dinner break, and a special

event each night. "The general sessions were led by Celia Whitler, missionaries shared experiences they have gone through in their location of ministry, and there was a time to praise God. It was an incredible experience to be able to worship with almost 7,000 other girls," Barnard wrote.

When asked what was the highlight of the conference for the girls, Keels said, "It was the prayerwalk to the state capitol." Katy agreed.

"The prayerwalk was one of the most incredible experiences I have ever had," she wrote. "It was so awesome to see almost 7,000 girls walk three blocks praying for everything in sight. And when I say everything, I mean everything. We prayed for parking lots and the people who parked their cars there, the homeless people on the sidewalks, the cooks and customers in restaurants, and much, much more. You could feel God working even as we walked."

"Teenage girls just need a time to be together," said Keels, referring to the need for Acteens in the local church. "They're more themselves; they can talk about issues they can't talk about in a co-ed setting, and often they can do ministry projects they can't do in a co-ed setting, like a homeless shelter or a teenage pregnancy shelter. They just need to have the opportunity to learn what it means to be that godly young woman God has called them to be, and learn how to do that in a missions atmosphere."

Keels was at one of

the largest high schools in the metro Nashville area. While the school was anticipating about 20 volunteers to help with the

wanted to do more hands-on missions activities. WMU leadership contacted agencies all over Louisville and got permission to send them to community sites all over town.

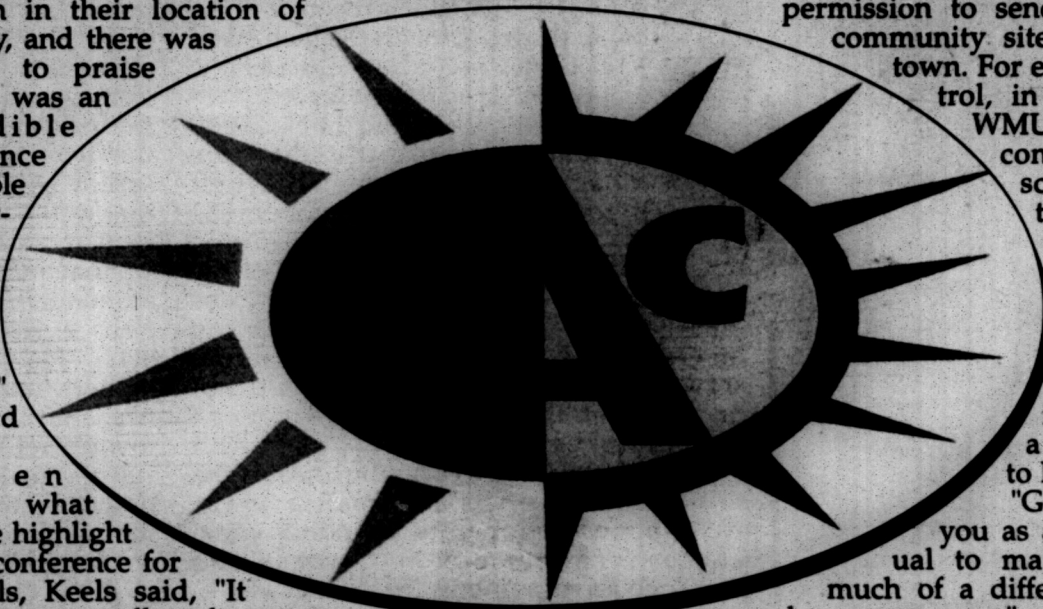
For ease of control, in Nashville WMU elected to

contact the school system, and the requests for help were overwhelming," according to Keels.

"God can use you as an individual to make just as much of a difference as a large group can," according to Katy.

"Just strive to be like Jesus and let Him shine through you, and you will be a shining light in your community."

For more information on NAC and the Acteens program, contact Keels at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3322 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 322. E-mail: rkeels@mbcb.org.



school projects, Keels said they ended up with about 180.

"We moved boxes of books from hall closets to classrooms," she said. "I literally had 120 to 130 girls and leaders moving books in an assembly line from the closet to where they had to go."

When the previous NAC was held in Louisville, Ky., the WMU learned that the girls



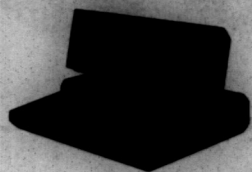
**SCHOOLWORK, ACTEENS STYLE** — Katy Barnard (right) of Mount Olive Church in Smithdale and an unidentified Acteen provide volunteer cleanup services at a local school during the National Acteens Convention in Nashville on July 29 - Aug. 1. (Special to the Baptist Record)



**WELCOME TO AMERICA** — Lena Kofanova (center) a student from New Hope Church in Kharkov, Ukraine, is presented a banner by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union consultants Tammy Anderson (left) and Robin Keels during the National Acteens Convention in Nashville. Several individuals donated money to provide a travel scholarship for Kofanova to attend the July 29-August 1 convention. (Special to The Baptist Record)



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# A Christian witness in public schools

The new school year started this week for most Mississippi students. A quick glance at a local newspaper or television station served to confirm the process. What is little known and even less reported about the back-to-school event are the Christian teachers, administrators, and parents who went to the schools over the past several weeks to pray.

They conducted prayer walks. They held prayer meetings. They prayed for the safety of the little ones, and for the poor home situations from which so many of them come. They prayed for the teachers.

They prayed for the principals and assistant principals. They prayed for the school staffers. They prayed for coaches and athletes.

Most of all, they prayed that a Christian witness would somehow, some way be imparted to the lost, young lives that would soon be pouring in droves through the then-silent school. They prayed, and then left the school silently and unobserved.

Why silently and unobserved? Certainly not because they are ashamed of the Gospel. They left silently and unobserved because of the risk to the educators, administrators, and staffers of the schools who could lose their jobs if they were discovered praying on campus. They left silently and unobserved so the school system would not be sued by the likes of the American Civil Liberties Union.

They just wanted to pray, but such is the sorry state of affairs in America today. We've almost returned to the point where Christians have to meet in catacombs and exchange secret symbols for safety.

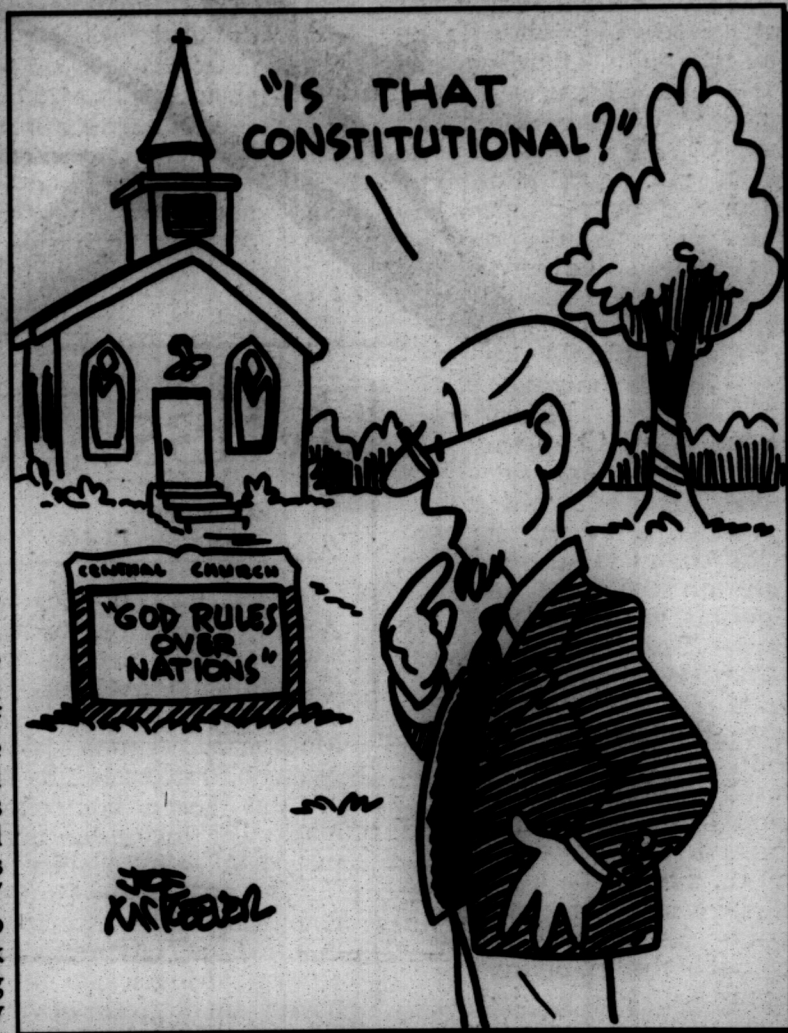
We live in a country that prohibits the name of God in schools unless that Holy Name is used profanely. We live in a country that denies students the opportunity to

study the Bible but requires them to read the works of Karl Marx. We live in a country where the Ten Commandments are outlawed in schools, but children as young as the first grade must take mandatory sex education classes.

We live in a country where the federal judiciary forces schools to admit homosexual teens and their dates to school events, but refuses to allow a prayer before the start of the very same events. We live in a country that promotes a special form of elitism and segregation by allowing a separate high school for practicing homosexuals.

In all the ways we have attempted to wring God from our public life, one of the most egregious has to be the way we have treated school-age children. It seems that we as a country — and in many cases as individuals — have forgotten Jesus' admonition to anyone who leads a child astray (Mark 9:42). He wasn't kidding around, and He assuredly needs no federal magistrate to interpret His words. For a host of reasons, it's not going to be pretty when God rains down His judgement on America, and one of the big reasons will be the manner in which we treated the children He entrusted to us.

What can we do? Homeschooling and Christian private schools certainly have merit and provide fertile ground for an editorial on another day, but what about the untold numbers of lost children whose



only contact with a follower of Jesus may be through interaction at their public schools? Many Christian parents, students, and teachers have chosen public schools to let their light shine (Matt. 5:14-16) for all mankind to see. They are intent on spreading the Gospel in a corner of our society that can be particularly pagan.

For the sake of the children, let us pray that they succeed.

**Galatians 5:22-23:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

After a lengthy conversation with Valerie (not her real name) regarding her increasing weight and overall decline in health, I began to process some of the motivations and requirements for a Christian to live a healthy, Christ-honoring lifestyle.

It seems that a deeper motivation for good health should exist for believers. As Christ-followers, we are given the mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus with a lost world. While this requires spiritual, mental and emotional readiness, it also requires physical readiness. To be fully ready to go about our mission we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul's encouragement to the Galatians to live lives full of the characteristics of the Spirit of God is a good measure not only for our spiritual and relational health but also our physical health.

Let's look at how three of these qualities directly impact the choices we make for good health:

## GUEST OPINION:



### The Bible and a healthy lifestyle

By Branda Polk, Memphis

#### LOVE

In Mark 12:31 Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." In other words, love your neighbor to the level that you love and respect yourself. This is not a proud, arrogant, self-focused love, but an appreciation for the gift God gave you in your body. God specifically constructed the body He gave you with all its uniqueness. Your body is a ministry tool that God works through. God doesn't just love your soul; He loves your body as well. We are more motivated to properly care for what we love and respect. When you love and care for yourself, you are also better equipped to love and care for others.

#### PATIENCE

In our fast pace and instant society, we expect improvements in our health to happen

quickly. Thus, the weight loss industry is approximately a \$41 billion industry with more "magic cures" for weight loss popping up every day. The bottom line is, weight gain occurred over a period of time and weight loss will also. It took my friend, Nancy, two years to safely lose 120 pounds. Nancy's secret was to patiently make the best food and exercise choices every day. Do what you know is right and the results will take care of themselves, whether it's weight loss, lowering cholesterol or improving physical strength.

#### SELF CONTROL

1 Peter 5:8, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Self-control is the fruit of the Spirit that allows you to say "No" to

foods that are not beneficial to your body, to eat foods that will improve your health, to stop eating when you are full, to go for a walk even when you really don't want to, to go to the doctor for an annual checkup, to properly manage your stress, to avoid "quick-fix" weight-loss gimmicks, and to follow your doctor's recommendations for better health. Self-control also is called discipline and both are painful at times but the long-term rewards are worth the short-term discomfort.

I'm convinced that Satan is slowly eroding the impact of Christians on our world by keeping many of us sick, unhealthy, tired and apathetic. If Satan can just reduce our effectiveness in the world through our ministry and missions, then he can better advance his agenda. To turn this tide we must be aware of all the tactics Satan uses and prepare ourselves by being continually filled with the Spirit and allowing the fruit of that filling to flow into every area of our lives including our health.

Polk is a certified fitness instructor, personal trainer, and wellness coach. Her column appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



# Navy chaplain sees opportunities in Iraq

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (BP) — He's 25 pounds lighter after two bouts with dysentery. He's worn a chemical suit and dodged bullets behind his Humvee. He's marched with the troops of Operation Iraqi Freedom through the powdery sands of Kuwait and Iraq, where temperatures topped 100 degrees on a daily basis.

He never fired a single weapon, however, or launched a solitary missile. Navy Chaplain Lieutenant Commander Travis Moger's "sword" is as close as the pocket of the chemical suit he wore on the road to Baghdad with the 1st Marine Division based at Camp Pendleton near San Diego.

Moger's reserve battalion was the only Marine Corps reserve infantry battalion to fight alongside active duty units in the war. Because chaplains are non-combatants, his job was to stay out of the line of fire, to pray with and to give spiritual counsel to the troops.

Never far from the Word during his 100-day deployment, 35-year-old Moger, now stateside, told the Florida Baptist Witness about an encounter with a Marine who had left the Catholic faith and was on a search for meaning.

"I want my life to be right with God," Moger said the young man told him. "Can you tell me what to do?"

Pulling out a small New Testament, Moger said he knelt in the sand at the side of an Iraqi highway to show the

soldier God's ultimate roadmap — the way to salvation.

The experience Moger described took place the day before his unit engaged in their first firefight. Two days later, taking cover behind his Humvee to avoid small arms fire coming

service reported by the Associated Press (AP). The AP reported that Moger baptized seven new believers in a pool made of sandbags at Camp Inchon in Kuwait, only days before those believers and their fellow Marines liberated the Iraqi town of Safwan, just north of the Kuwaiti border. Water and time were a bit scarcer after that, so others who had requested baptism had to wait.

"One of the hardest times was after the war was over, waiting for our turn to return to the States," Moger said. "We left Baghdad the day after Easter and it took over a month for us to return to Kuwait to wait for a flight out."

At home in Southern California, Moger's family also waited patiently for his return. A "Navy brat turned Navy wife," Amelia, was head of the household for their four children — Natalie, Nadine, Maddy and Mark — during her husband's deployment.

It was while Moger was waiting to return home that he said he learned an important lesson about God's timing. Camping in a "filthy, run-down old Iraqi military compound with lots of bugs and mud," Moger said the temperature was over 100 degrees every day and many, including him, were sickened with dysentery.

In addition, unlike many other units deployed there, Moger's battalion did not have access to e-mail and only after the war did the 1,000-man battalion get a satellite phone to use an average of once a week for a five-minute phone call home.

"I was able to put the whole situation in perspective," Moger said, "because I personally saw four Marines and sailors come to faith in Christ while we were there."

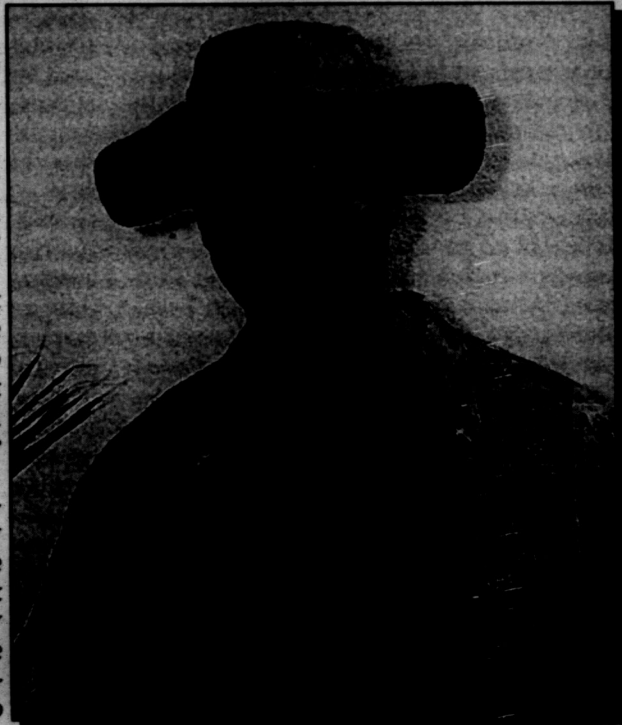
"In retrospect, I believe there was a divine reason we were delayed in our return. God was working on the hearts of these men," Moger pointed out. "A soul being saved is worth ... the inconvenience of a month in a disease-infested camp."

Moger said not all of his experiences were "spiritual victories," however.

"There were times when I neglected to witness when I should have," he said. "One time, when we were 'dug in' near Al Fajir, Iraq, I spent the day walking the lines of one of our rifle companies. I spent about 30-45 minutes talking with a platoon sergeant, but I never asked him about his relationship with God. That night he was killed in combat," Moger said.

Death was no stranger to Moger by the time he left Iraq. Saddened by the civilian casualties, he said it was one of the toughest things he faced.

"It was hard seeing the damage we caused innocent civilians, especially the children," Moger said. "[But] our troops were generally very good about limiting civilian casualties."



Moger

from a tree line 300 meters away, Moger said the same Marine approached him in order to tell him how "at peace" he was and how he "wasn't scared" in spite of the chaos of war.

"I thank God that He was able to use me to lead men to Christ," Moger said. A Navy chaplain since 1994, Moger previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Citra, Fla.

Moger reported leading about three dozen Marines and sailors to Christ while being deployed to the Middle East, and he took part in a baptism

## THE BAPTIST Record

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### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson is hopeful a five-year education campaign in Mississippi that has taught more than 60,000 adults to read will serve as a national model.

#### 20 years ago

Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and TV Commission, sets May 1984 as the launch date of the ACTS network, a service designed to give Baptists a consistent Gospel witness on television.

#### 50 years ago

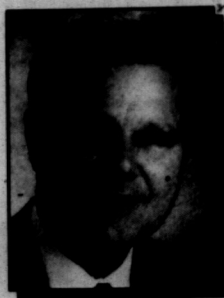
Billy Graham climaxes his Revival Under the Stars — four weeks of evangelistic services at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas — with 1,336 coming forward to accept Christ as savior. Total attendance of the month-long event was more than 513,000.



## DON'T CALL

As of the middle of August the federal government says that over 30 million people have called to register on the "Don't Call List." You are familiar with the national register that you can call or go on line to tell the telemarketers, "Don't call me." If you have a telephone no doubt you have had a meal interrupted or you have been interrupted while in the middle of something really important. Maybe, it was just an everyday routine or maybe it was a significant happening in your daily life. The call comes trying to sell you something, or give you something, or invite you somewhere. It is a pesky proposition. Most of us, at least once or maybe multiple times, have had our attitudes tweaked to the wrong side of the meter because somebody we did not want to talk was trying to sell us something that we didn't want. They interrupted our lives and pushed us toward a cranky condition.

So, now finally our big federal government has stepped in to say that we can announce, "Don't bother me!" You see the problem with these kinds of phone calls is that they are not really for us but just for them and so it irritates us. Oh, I know they try to package it as though they are doing us a favor by what they are selling, the time we will be saving, and the good that we will be doing, but most of the time it is for their profit margin, for their advancement, and our detriment. It is just a reminder that the



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

wonderful intervention that Mr. Alexander Graham Bell shared with us has a downside as well as a wonderful connected side.

I thought about all of these folks who have contacted the federal government, signed up, and said, "Don't call me," as I was thinking about God's availability to hear from us. Somebody said that God's phone number was 333 indicating a verse of scripture from Jeremiah 33:3. "Call upon me and I will show you great and mighty things which thou knowest not." God is open, available, and desires to hear from us. You know, it seems to me that sometimes God may say, "Don't call me." Now that may sound wrong and it may sound as though that could not possibly be, but think about it. Sometimes, the Lord recognizing our attitude and our sinfulness may just come to the place where He says, "Don't call me."

Let me give you a couple of for instances. God may say, "Don't call me," when we are unwilling to give up our sin. In Psalm 66:18 the Word tells us, "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." You see in order for us to be forgiven of our sins we have got to be

willing to turn them loose. To repent is to turn around and go away from. If you have sin in your heart and you come to God unwilling to let go of it, there is no need to waste your time because there will be no change whatsoever.

I thank of another time that God may have said, "Don't call me," when a group of people would not give in. Joshua was the leader of God's people. As they crossed the Jordan and they came to the small city of Ai, they went to battle and they went down in battle all because one man was not willing to follow the directions of God and give in to the guidance and the will of God. His name was Achan and he had done his will and disobeyed God. Because of the defeat that came, Joshua cries out to God as though God had failed Israel and the defeat had come because of the Lord. God tells Joshua to get up. In a sense, He tells him, "Stop praying — don't call on me." For you see, God was not the problem and the change that needed to take place was not one that heaven needed to take care of but one that Israel needed to address.

I do not particularly like the phrase, "God helps those who

help themselves." However, there is an element of truth in the fact that if God tells us something, leads us clearly in His will, and we will not follow it and do not give in to His plans things are not going to work out well.

A last thought about God not receiving a call may be seen in the passage where a man dies and goes out into eternity. In eternity he realizes that he will spend all of his future days separated from God the same way that he desired to live his life. He calls out to God and says, "Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue." How many people are going to day by day squander opportunities of repentance and faith in a living Christ only to find that hell is a reality and that God, who has been ignored for a lifetime, will not receive their call?

All of that is to say, for every one of us this moment is a wonderful opportunity. Right now we can call on Him and He is available to us. We can find in Jesus forgiveness of sin, freedom from the chaos of all those broken dreams and dashed relationships, and security that we can live with Him forever and ever if we would just call on Him now. There is no better time than right this minute. It will not get better, you will not get better, and the God who longs to save you will not desire to do so anymore than right now. He stands wanting, waiting to hear from you. Call on Him; let Him answer and work in your life.

## First Person: The children in God's big arms

By Erica Harms  
BSU summer missionary

Fourth in a series

"My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved." (Romans 10:1) This is the verse that I claimed this week as I worked on staff at children's camp as the worship leader and recreation director — both a trying and rewarding experience. This camp was a refuge for fourth through six graders from Southern Baptist churches throughout Idaho.

The highlight of my week came each night during the service as I listened to the children sing. Even as the worship leader, I would stop singing sometimes just to hear them shout to the Lord on the top of their lungs. Many church congregations don't sing as genuinely as did these kids.

The worship services were not the only times when the children experienced the Lord. One of the recreation activities we did during the afternoon was lead the students on a five-mile hike to the top of a mountain. I had never imagined that I would be leading groups of 40 students out on a hike through the wilderness, but looking back I can see how God used my previous experiences this summer to prepare me to be the leader he needed me to be this week.

As the children looked out all around them from the top, surrounded by God's creation, we began to talk about what a mighty God we serve. There's something about being in the midst of nature that makes stu-

dents say what normally stays tucked away in the corner of their minds.

One girl shared that she recently asked Jesus into her heart and wants to be baptized. Unfortunately, her father is a Mormon and refuses to allow her to do so. Another student shared that she wants to be baptized but has to wait until her father gets out of prison in October so he can watch her.

I met so many students who come from broken homes, who are left alone day after day without supervision and who are so desperate for someone to show them unconditional love. Before the week was over, we were blessed to see three students accept the Lord.

Sadly, many of the campers I left did not return to a home where arms were waiting to hug them. They encountered a household that will quickly quench their spiritual fire. My heart is broken for those children who live each day in those inconceivable situations, but I know that God loves them more than I



CHILDREN'S CAMP — Erica Harms (left), Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionary to Idaho, holds Maria, one of the many children involved in a summer camp called Commission, in the early days of her ministry in the state. (Special to The Baptist Record)

will ever be able. His arms are never closed and are reaching down to scoop up each one of these precious children and tell them that He cares for them.

Harms is a Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionary to Idaho. She is a student at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. BSU summer missionaries raise their own funds for summer missions, and are supported administratively by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



# Royal Ambassadors to undergo big changes

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — A small change being introduced in the Royal Ambassadors (RA) pledge this fall is indicative of major changes in store throughout Southern Baptists' traditional missions education program for boys — the first significant alteration to the RA program in more than 30 years.

"We changed a line so that the whole pledge becomes proactive," said Rob Carr, children's mission education strategist for the North American Mission Board, which produces RA materials for Southern Baptist churches.

"Instead of just learning how the message of Christ is carried around the world, we are now learning how to carry the message of Christ around the world. It's a subtle but significant change."

In the process, he said, Royal Ambassadors also is taking on an expanded role of character education, with a curriculum based on virtues such as loyalty, friendship, courage and responsibility.

The traditional church-based RA organization also is being supplemented by a completely new resource titled, "Sons of Virtue," that will allow fathers to lead their sons — and possibly friends — to study the same virtues in homes. The book enables boys in churches where

there is not an RA program to participate — while also providing an introduction to the organization that could lead to more church RA chapters, Carr said.

"The feedback from the folks that did a prototype of this is that it deepened their relationships," Carr said. "This gave them some good direction on how they can talk to their son. The same virtues studied in the RA materials are applied to their relationships, with the father reflecting back on the same things he did when he was at the same age of life."

Carr said the changes in RAs were considered carefully over several years because of the strong traditions associated with the program. With the new plan, the strong guiding principles of the "classic" RA program are maintained while making the program easier and more flexible for churches to implement.

Part of the impetus was an acknowledgment of the growing competition for time from other children's ministries, Carr said.

"We thought it might be time for a change — not in the purpose, because we still want to develop on-mission Christians," he said, "but we wanted to say, 'How do we do that in a way that is motivating for the boy and is easy for the leader to do?'"

One change is simply in the format of the meeting,

from a traditional eight-part program to only five meeting segments. The RA advancements also are more integrated into the meeting plan, allowing boys to work on advancements during the meeting as well as going through materials from the newly redesigned "Lad" and "Crusader" magazines for the two main age groups of RAs.

The new RA materials also encourage boys to make choices about their activities and advancements.

"It's more based on commitments by the boys, so that rather than the leader telling them what's required, there are choices that the boy can make," Carr said. "And the leader helps the boy make the choice or follow through on that choice."

The traditional Royal Ambassador focus on missionaries will be retained, however, with missionaries serving as role models for the virtues and character traits being studied. Leaders also will be encouraged to make use of strong Christian laymen in their congregations as well.

Many of the traditional awards and activities like camping and RA Racers also will continue.

"We do want the boys to earn their pins and patches, but we don't want the pins and patches to be an end to them-

selves," Carr said. "These represent markers on their journey. It's not just about building a car and racing it, but about building a car and then having another one so that you can bring a friend."

The materials debuted at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix as RAs from Arizona, California and South Carolina shined the shoes of more than 2,000 messengers in the SBC exhibit hall.

The new RA design is detailed in the revised "Leading Royal Ambassadors" book, available through NAMB at [www.namb.net/catalog](http://www.namb.net/catalog) or by calling (866) 407-NAMB. Other information is available at [www.royalambassadors.org](http://www.royalambassadors.org).



**A NEW SHINE** — Tavin Woodall, age 9, was one of many Royal Ambassadors (RA) shining shoes during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June as part of the rollout of the North American Mission Board's redesigned RA materials — the first major alteration of the program in 30 years. (BP photo by Van Payne)

## Acteens, leaders preview curriculum updates

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Eula Parks hardly dropped her luggage before she dug through the packet of information she'd received and pulled out The Mag. She gathered the girls in her Acteens group and together they flipped through the publication. She liked what she saw.

"It looks very good," said the veteran Acteens adviser from Hampton, Va. "I could tell by the girls' reaction that they connected with it immediately. They've really made it user-friendly."

The Mag: A Kaleidoscope of Missions Awareness and Growth is the new curriculum designed by national Woman's Missionary Union for Acteens, a missions education organization for girls in grades seven through 12. The Mag is the result of two years of research, planning, and preparation.

It was officially released during the National Acteens Convention July 29-Aug. 1 in Nashville. Acteens leaders from around the country received teaching materials, including the newly released Acteens Leader. Groups subscribed to Accent will automatically begin receiving The Mag in time for September study.

"The quality of the lessons in the new material impressed me," said Parks, who attends West Hampton Church. "They've obviously done their homework."

The changes are noticeable even before The Mag is ever picked up. "Acteens will notice a dramatic change in the new, smaller size of their magazine," said Kym Mitchell, design editor for WMU's student resource team that developed and produces The Mag. "It fits in their Bibles. It will also bridge the gap between Acteens' meetings and everyday life."



Designers intentionally removed Acteens-specific terminology and placed an emphasis on using language that speaks to a larger audience of teenage girls. "I'm not really a magazine person," said Trisha Wise of Gum Springs, Va., "but this is the best magazine I've seen for people our age because it fits everybody." Elements of The Mag are:

- Four undated devotions and prayers which refer girls to the included prayer calendar.

- The prayer calendar which contains a missionary of the week profile and also a North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and a retired missionary listed for each day.

- Web links to a variety of other information and activities.

- Plenty of blank space for girls to record their thoughts as they interact with the material.

- Missionary Bytes, focusing on missionaries being studied for the month and linked to the missionaries written about in Acteens Leader.

- Snapshots, which is cultural information and tidbits from the countries where the missionaries being studied serve.

- Try this at home, which will give four suggestions that girls can do at home — hands-on activities that girls can do to impact the world for Christ

Holdovers from Accent are Dr. T, music reviews, stories from Acteens groups, missionary kid stories, and unreached people group features.

"We wanted to have an exciting new publication," Mitchell said, "but we listened to our audience and kept the elements of Accent that they enjoyed the most."

Leaders will notice that their guide also has been radically altered. First, Acteens Leader now will be a quarterly piece instead of monthly with a combined June/July issue. There also is a weekly Bible study designed to nurture the spiritual life of the leader toward a missions lifestyle and a focus on the adult leader's role as a mentor. Mentoring activities will be weekly features in Acteens Leader.

The Mag and Acteens Leader can be ordered through WMU either by calling (800) 968-7301 or from [www.wmustore.com](http://www.wmustore.com).

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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F EFMZ FIM EFMZ, YFK

BNWBEEBQJ XL JYS QPRB

XQ PEE JYB BPMJY! KYF

YPLJ LBJ JYS HEFMS

PAFOB JYB YBPOBQL

DLPERL BXHYJ: FQB

Clue: K = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel 6:27



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



3rd grade GAs of First Church, Jackson



VBS Participants of Bethel Church, Monroe



Children of Christ Church, Greenwood

Monticello Church, Monticello, will present Brent Lamb, lead singer of Shenandoah, in concert August 24 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be received.

McBee Church, Columbus, will present Lee Pitts Ministries on August 17 at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, call (662) 356-4459.

Montrose Church, Louin, will host a reception in honor of Clyde Little and his wife, Bay Springs, on August 17 from 2-4 p.m. Little has served in the ministry for 50 years.

Gunter Road Church, Florence, will present The Revelations in concert on August 24 at 6 p.m. Gene Jordan is pastor. For more information, call (601) 932-4134.

First Church, Glendale, held a Men's Cake Cook-Off to end Marvelous Mondays in July. The winner of the prettiest cake was Tim Brock, and the winner of the Tastiest cake was Eddie Walker. Pictured are the participants.

The Carrollton Baptist Women's Conference, Carrollton, Treasures of the Heart, will be held September 13 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served during registration from 8:30-9 a.m. Tickets are \$15 including lunch. Page Hughes, Women's Evangelism Department, NAMB, will be speaking. The North Carrollton Women of Praise, the Carrollton Baptist Men's Quartet, and Dianna Jones will provide music. For registration information, contact (662) 237-6717 or (662) 237-6326 by Aug. 30.

The youth of Springdale Church, Ripley, attended GBA Youth Week June 16-20 with 57 participants. Three were saved and one surrendered into full-time ministry. Robby Rowland is the youth minister.

Addie M. Holloway has 52 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School at Valley Park Church, Valley Park. Carley Nichols is the interim pastor.

Holly Church, Corinth, held VBS in June. Total enrollment was 107 with an average attendance of 80. The VBS missions offering was given to the work of the Hispanic missions in Alcorn County. Tony Morrow is pastor.

The children of Christ Church, Greenwood, presented the patriotic musical Salute to America on July 2. Lanny Haley is pastor. Pictured (from left, front) are Owen Hambrick, Mary Upchurch, Taylor Pleasants, (back) Jacob Spooner, Kegan Cunningham, Haley Liddell, Carlee Thornburg, and Lucas Spooner.

First Church, Chicora, held special Sunday morning service to honor life long member John Harvey "Janie" Mills on July 27, her 90th birthday. Following the service a luncheon and celebration was held for Mills. David Roberson is pastor.

Eric Naquin, retired as pastor of Big Springs Church, Brookhaven, will be available for interim and supply preaching. Naquin can be reached by calling (601) 823-3734. Dean Durr has been called as interim pastor.



Men's Cook-off of First Church, Glendale



Youth of Springdale Church, Ripley



## HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

**Topeka, Jayess:** Aug. 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner will be served; afternoon singing will follow; Frank Gunn, guest speaker; The Daniels Family quartet, music.

**Main Street, Hattiesburg:** Oct. 26; 100th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a congregational picture, time capsule ceremony, and dinner on the grounds will follow; centennial program, 2 p.m.; Jon Stubblefield, pastor.

**Highland, Tishomingo:** Aug. 17; 125th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; the old church bell will be dedicated in memory of Stanley McAnally; Jimmy Bryant, former pastor, preaching; Jeremy Harris, pastor.

**Parkway, Tupelo:** Aug. 24; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner will be served at noon; a time of fellowship and reminiscing will follow; Mark Gregory, former pastor, preaching; Paul Brashier, pas-

tor; Robert E. Shirley, Jim Alford, former pastors; for more information, call (662) 842-7843.

**Gatesville, Crystal Springs:** Aug. 31-Sept. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m.; nightly at 7 p.m.; James Messer Sr., Cypress Shore, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Alan Failer, Georgetown, Georgetown, music; Matt Armstrong, pastor.

**Franklin Creek, Moss Point:** Aug. 31; dinner will be served on the grounds; afternoon singing; Brother Sadler, preaching.

**New Salem, Calendon:** Aug. 24-28; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Tues., Youth Blast, 6 p.m.; Rip Noble, Emmanuel, Greenville, evangelist; Chris Bell, First, Snellville, Ga., music; David R. Woods, pastor.

**Duck Hill, Duck Hill:** Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon luncheon

and 7 p.m.; Ken Anderson, Parkway, Clinton, evangelist; T. R. Darsey, First, Winona, music; Travis Gray, pastor.

**Macedonia, Myrtle:** Aug. 17; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner at noon; The Landmarks, New Albany, music; Tommy C. Peters, pastor.

**New Hope, Tupelo:** Aug. 24; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Jeff Chamblee, music; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

**First, Mendenhall:** Aug. 17-20; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, First, Pascagoula, evangelist; Allen Harris, North Oxford, Oxford, music; Kermit D. McGregor, pastor.

**Unity, West:** Aug. 22 and 23; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Matt Brady, First, Durant, preaching; Steve White, music; Gene Richardson, pastor.

**New Haven, Weir:** Aug. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; R. C. Bryan, Pheba, evangelist; Melinda Newlin, Teresa Simpson, and Cheryl McIntire, music; Harvie Jackson, pastor; for more information, call (662) 547-6139.

**Midway, Newton:** Aug. 17; 125th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will be served.

**Immanuel, Pontotoc:** Aug. 24-27; Sunday-Wed., 7 p.m.; Johnny Sykes, evangelist; Melvin Crawley, pastor; for more information, call (662) 489-5733.

**Shiloh, Lawrence:** Aug. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m., a covered dish will be served at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Buddy Day, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music; Robert Dunn, interim pastor.

**First, Kosciusko:** Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch at noon with worship to follow, and 7 p.m.; Steve Hale, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Barry C. Corbett, pastor.

**Holly Bluff, Holly Bluff:** Sept. 7; worship, 10:45 a.m.; a covered dish will be served; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Malcolm Massey, preaching.

**Arkadelphia, Bailey:** Aug. 17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a fellowship meal will follow; Edsol Wells, former pastor, preaching.

**Liberty, Liberty:** Aug. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon with lunch and 7 p.m.; Ricky Kennedy, preaching; Jimmy Bilbo, music.

**Galilee, Rankin:** Aug. 17-20; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., lunch at noon, and afternoon services will follow; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Roger Barnes, evangelist; Hosanna, music; Frank Smith, interim pastor.

**Oak Grove, Clarke:** Aug. 17; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; Roy McHenry, former pastor, speaking; Terry Irby, pastor.

## COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Survival Weekend, hosted by the William Carey College (WCC) Baptist Student Union, will take place August 15-17 on the Hattiesburg campus. Survival Weekend offers new students the opportunity to make new friends, meet some of the faculty and administration, and receive creative tips on surviving at college. Registration for the weekend will begin in the Student Conference Center August 15 at 5 p.m. Survival Weekend is open to all new freshmen and transfer students entering WCC. The registration fee is \$30. For more information call (601) 318-6161 or 1-800-962-5991, ext. 161.



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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Church Crisis Communications Conference

September 19, 2003

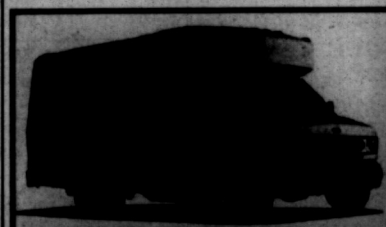
Speakers include:



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## STATE CHANGES

Allen Hill has recently joined the staff of West Laurel Church, Laurel, as Minister of Music and Activities. Hill comes from First Church, Taylorsville.

Michael Perry has accepted the call as Pastor of First Church, Moss Point. Perry is a graduate of Samford University and New Orleans Seminary. He comes from Marion, Ala.

First Church, Waynesboro, has called Stephen Smith as Pastor. Smith comes from First Church, Jackson, and served prior to that with the IMB for 15 years.



Dixie Church VBS, Hattiesburg

Central Church, Brookhaven, ordained Charles Ryan Thurman to the ministry on July 20. Thurman and his wife, Amanda Mitchell, are currently serving as Minister of Students. Pictured (from left) are Frank O. Rice, pastor, and Thurman.

First Church, Glendale, held VBS June 22-27. Enrollment was 202 with an average attendance of 165. Fourteen older children indicated a desire to become Christians. An offering

of \$189 and a number of boxes of toiletries were collected for the Baptist Children's Village. Karen Harless was the VBS director. Don H. Stewart is interim pastor.

Society Hill Church, Oakvale, held a note burning for their Fellowship Hall on June 8. Those participating were Larue Magee, Floyd Terrell Langston, Gary Fitzhugh, Diane Ott, and Tommy Broom, pastor.

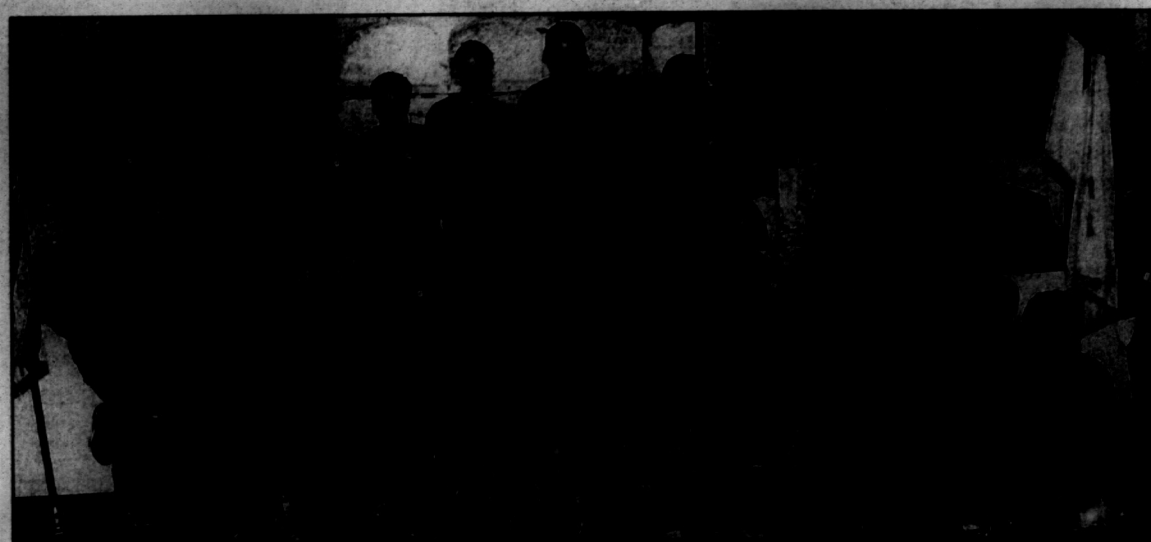
Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, held VBS June 2-6 with 234 in attendance. Pictured are Phyllis Hudson's 4th grade students cracking the character code.

Providence Church, Grenada, held VBS June 9-13. Sanya Fulgham was the director. Pictured are the attendants.

The RAs of Parkway Church, Hernando, recently participated in the RA Races. Pictured (from left, front) are Coleman Gilder, Steven Wheeler, David Hughes, Garrett Luttrell, (back) Ted Darby, Caleb Smith, Thomas Long, Evan Luttrell, and Steve Luttrell. Mike Ramage is pastor.

Antioch Church, Greene, licensed Michael McLendon to the ministry January 26.

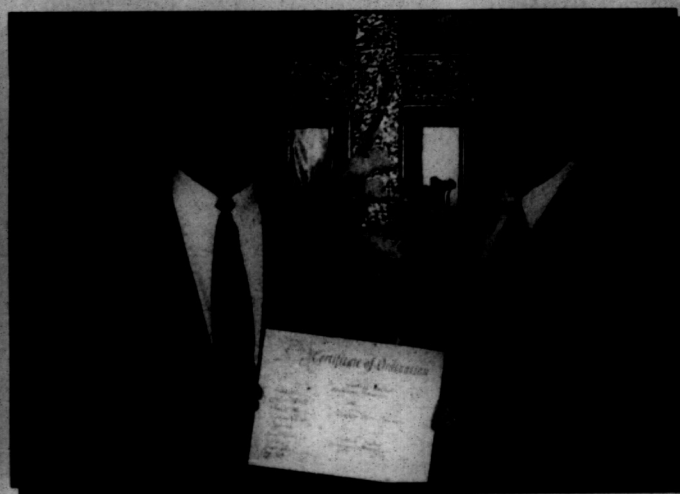
Friendship Church, Columbus held VBS on June 8. Sixty children and adults enjoyed Bible stories, crafts, music, lunch, and puppet shows. The theme was Treasures of the Nile, An Expedition to Jesus. J. C. Mitchell is interim pastor.



Providence Church VBS Participants, Grenada



Society Hill Note Burning, Oakvale



Rice, pastor, and Thurman



RA Derby Race, Parkway Church, Hernando

## SQUIRE PARSONS IN CONCERT



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Poplar Springs Baptist Church • Mendenhall, MS

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Pastor - Jack Woodard

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LEESVILLE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: Full-time youth and recreation minister. Send resumes with photo to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446; or email

fbcleesville@wnonline.net.

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LARGE SUBURBAN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI baptist church prayerfully seeks a full-time Minister of Music. Duties include leading contemporary worship services, coordinating vocal and instrumental ensembles and major music/drama productions. Evangelistic heart a must. Send resumes to music/worship search committee, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**First Church Lambert VBS Participants, Lambert**

First Church, Lambert, celebrated their homecoming on June 29. Pictured (from left) are Donald O'Quinn, pastor, and Lt. Col. Chaplain A. M. "Sonny" Moore, guest preacher.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, sent 12 children to participate in State Bible Drills. Pictured are the participants.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, had 9 girls attend GA camp at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. Pictured (from left, front) are Emily Eley, Kayla Nelson, Ariel Davis, (back) Camille Smith, Bailey Jemison, Kathleen Tillman, Channinge Jones, Erica Mixon, and Julie Welford.



**GAs of Rocky Creek, Lucedale**

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recently held their GAs recognition service for 2002-2003. The theme was Hands Across the World and the girls dressed as different countries and gave prayer requests for the country they represented.

Big Level Church, Wiggins, recently held VBS. Pictured are the members of the kindergarten class and their teachers boarding the bus at the corner of London Bridge Rd. and Big Ben Ave.



**Big Level Church VBS Participants, Wiggins**



**Rocky Creek Bible Drill Participants, Lucedale**

Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, held a groundbreaking on June 29 for a new sanctuary, educational area, and fellowship hall. Pictured are the participants.

First Church, Lambert, conducted VBS June 9-13. Eighty participated in weekly activities. Five professions of faith were made.



**O'Quinn, pastor & Moore**



**Ground Breaking of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon**



**Rocky Creek GA Camp Participants, Lucedale**

**DURANT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a part-time minister of music. Sunday am and pm services, Wednesday night services. Also, lead an adult choir. Please contact (662) 653-3105 or fax resume (662) 653-6147.

**ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH** Preschool teacher needed. Four year old ABeka curriculum. For more information call Nina Nesom at (601) 372-5188.

**TOMPKINS BAPTIST CHURCH, GROVE HILL, Alabama**, seeking full-time pastor with seminary degree from SBC institution and with at least 5 years pastoral experience. Send resume to Tompkins Baptist Church, 14130 Hwy 43, Grove Hill, AL 36451, attn: pastor search committee.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND** Part-time Minister of Youth needed at Lexie Baptist Church in Tylertown, Miss. Would prefer to combine these positions into one position. Send resumes to personnel com-

mittee, Lexie Baptist church, 12 West Lexie Road, Tylertown, MS 39667. For more info call (601) 222-0165.

**NORTHWEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** IN DeSoto and Tate counties is now taking applications and resumes for Association Missions Director. Send all information, including accurate references to Mr. Dan Freeman, 2604 Lavern Road, Nesbit, MS 38651.

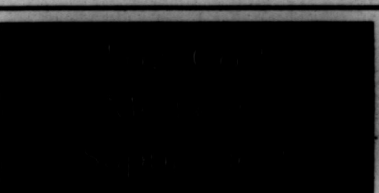
**ADATON BAPTIST CHURCH WILL BE** accepting resumes for the full-time position of Administrative Assistant. All interested individuals may apply by sending a resume to Adaton Baptist Church, attention: personnel committee, 1975 Highway 82 W., Starkville, MS 39759. Resumes will be accepted through August 30, 2003. For additional information, call (662) 323-3735.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST POINT, Miss.**, is currently accepting resumes for the position of a full-time Early Childhood Ministry

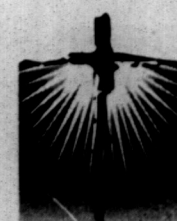
Director (child care & Kindergarten). Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 794, West Point, MS 39773, attn. cc chairman, Sherman Berry or call (662) 494-4213.

**RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH** IN Jackson is prayerfully seeking individuals for positions as full-time minister of music and part-time minister to children. Please send resume to Raymond Road Baptist Church, personnel committee, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Rev. Tommy Anthony is pastor.

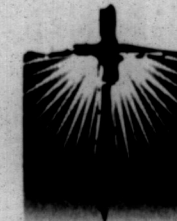
**BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Miss.**, is looking for a part-time music director. We wish this person to come to us only led by the Spirit, and bring new and refreshing ideas to help us to praise the Lord as He so deserves. Send resume to Annette Smith, 410 Lamar Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Or call Carol Moore (601) 264-6623, or call (601) 544-1567.



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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Acting Wisely

Genesis 41:1-57

By Karen Hollowell

In this week's lesson, we see Joseph finally being delivered from prison and the life of a slave to one who is elevated to second highest in control of the great Egyptian empire. God revealed his sovereignty through the dreams of two fellow prisoners of Joseph and later, in two dreams of Pharaoh himself.

In Chapter 40 of Genesis is the account of Joseph interpreting the dreams of the king's baker and cupbearer. In both cases, what Joseph said did come to pass. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when he was restored to his position, but he did not. For two more years, Joseph remained in prison. Chapter 41 is where the pivotal events occur that bring Joseph closer to the fulfillment of the

plan God had for him. Pharaoh had two dreams—one in which seven lean cows ate seven fat cows, and the other in which the thin heads on the stalks of grain consumed the full heads. No one—not any of the king's wise men could interpret this dream. At this point the cupbearer remembers Joseph and tells Pharaoh about him. Joseph is quickly sent to him. He makes it clear from the beginning that God will give the meaning of the dreams—not him. For Joseph to make a strong stand for God in a nation where many gods were worshipped was a brave thing indeed, especially when he has been in prison for so many years. He was seventeen when first brought to Egypt, and is now thirty. How easy it would have been to discount his heritage for

Hollowell

the sake of freedom, but he did not.

The two dreams that Pharaoh had meant the same thing—Egypt would have seven abundant years of crops and plenty, and then there would be seven years of severe famine. Joseph then advised Pharaoh to appoint an overseer who would be responsible for the collection of grain and crops over the next seven years so there would be a supply during the seven years of famine. Even Pharaoh, who worshipped false gods, knew that Joseph was speaking with divine wisdom. In verse 38, he says ... "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" Even though God revealed the future in Pharaoh's dreams through Joseph's interpretation, it wouldn't have meant very much if no action had been taken. He immediately put Joseph in charge of his palace and the whole land of Egypt. He would be second only to

Pharaoh. He married an Egyptian woman, had two sons, and fulfilled all the responsibilities of the job he had outlined. So much grain was collected during the seven abundant years that it could not be counted.

One of the main things that should be noted about Joseph is his repeated emphasis that he did not have any power on his own. He kept giving God the glory and honor for revealing the meaning of the dreams. By ourselves, we cannot do anything. When we are humble enough to acknowledge that God is our provider and sustainer, then we become a vessel through which God can be glorified.

How different is this Joseph we see at age 30 compared to the boy he was back home, thoughtlessly telling his brothers about his dreams in which he would rule over them. The time was coming when that dream would also be a reality, but only through circumstances in which Joseph found himself a slave and prisoner for thirteen years.

In these years, even through the loneliest, dreariest, times, Joseph never lost his zeal for God.

Joseph acted in a way that allowed even the polytheistic, Egyptian ruler to know that the spirit of the one true God was within him. Can we say the same? Can unbelievers look at how we live our lives and know that we walk in the light of Jesus Christ? Moreover, the wise decisions that Pharaoh made in regards to the famine would not have been possible without God. Pharaoh may have been worshipped as a god by his nation, the wise men of Egypt may have thought they had the ability to translate dreams, but only God would determine the future. No matter how smart we think we are, without God we will not be able to make wise decisions and take appropriate action. "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

Hollowell is a member of Crosby Church, Crosby.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Taming Your Tongue

James 3:1-18

By Kiely Young

A well known gossip in the community came under conviction over the results of gossip being spread and decided to talk to the pastor. After some time of confession the gossip felt she needed to go to the altar and recommit herself and her tongue to the Lord. She told her pastor she wanted to "lay it all on the altar." The pastor responded, "We have about twenty feet of altar here, so just get as much of your tongue as you can down there."

My how we are guilty of not being spirit-filled, yet with a loose tongue. James reminds us of the horrendous damage being done when we are out of control.

I. Consider Your Accountability (3:1-2).

What a wonderful influence, the God-gifted teacher! What

an often boring shame, the self-called teacher. James warns us to take responsibility for our speech and the forum in which we choose to use. How easy it is to open your mouth and speak. How difficult to try to regroup and apologize after a harmful word. When we stumble and unintentionally say the wrong thing, we just have to try to make up for it with encouraging and complimentary words. James says we must take responsibility in either case. The man who has reached maturity is able to control his tongue at all times. That will only happen when we reach complete maturity in the presence of our Lord Jesus.

II. Take Control (3:3-8).

A horse's bridle, a ship's rudder, and a match seem to have so little in common. Yet, they each

Young

illustrate how a small object can exhibit such powerful control. It is also true for the tongue. Each of these has the potential for great benefit when under control, but let the horse get out of control and watch out. You may be in for the ride or fall of your life. So it is with the ship.

Malicious wild fires—countless lives and millions of dollars have been lost. James compares the results of an untamed tongue in the same way. Half-truths and malicious gossip have irreparably damaged lives. The result is like "deadly poison." There is so much potential for good when under control, yet so much tragic damage when uncontrolled.

III. Seek Consistency (3:9-12).

One Sunday, during a children's sermon, I used a hammer as an illustration of a tool and how we can all be helpful. I then asked if they or their dad had ever hit their finger with a hammer when trying to hammer a nail. One child, a grandson of one of our deacons, said

"Oh yes, and you should have heard the words my Pappa said when he hit his hand. I can't say those words in church."

James sternly warns us, "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing... these things ought not be" (v.10). Just as a mountain spring will only produce wonderful refreshing cool water and a fig tree will only produce figs, so should we only produce good fruit as believers. I still remember the reminder of my dear grandmother when we, her grandsons had the tendency to tattle on each other. She would say, "If you can't say something good about each other, don't say anything at all."

III. Be Careful (3:13-18).

James concludes his discussion of the tongue with words concerning wisdom. First, there is earthly wisdom that is "earthly, sensual, and demonic." That is the wisdom that comes from a self-seeking, self-satisfying man looking out for his own benefit. The wisdom "from above," godly wisdom, is "pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiali-

ty and without hypocrisy." This wisdom displays the fruit of righteousness as "sown in peace by those who make peace." That should be the attitude by all believers. He is giving reference to the truth that we will reap what we sow, or as one of my delta farm buddies would say, "Preacher, you gotta' remember, what goes around, comes around. Just say nice things to and about folks and you don't have to worry about what might come around." I am reminded of two individuals when I think about these words. The first truly has the gift of encouragement. I always looked forward to being around this delightful deacon. He found something good to say about everybody. The second individual seemed to be walking under a dark cloud every day. This person had a word of complaint about almost everything. Needless to say this person was not pleasant to be around. God said to love them both the same.

Young is the director of the Sunday School Dept. at the MBCB in Jackson.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and announcements of special events that take place in our churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record should be (a) typewritten, (b) double-spaced on 1/2 by 11-inch paper, (c) typed on one side of the paper, and (d) submitted on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be submitted in writing; no articles will be accepted by telephone.

News may also be submitted electronically to the editor, and must be contained in the body of an e-mail message, not as an attachment.

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are acceptable.

Please make articles as short as possible. Do not include names of individuals, but do include names of churches and organizations.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs may be published one time only. The deadline for submitting news is one week before requested publication date.

Articles that are not dated will not be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to: Baptist Record, P.O. Box 100, MS 39205-0530. FAX: 601/933-1111. E-mail: baptistrecord@msbaptist.org



# PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## CHOOSING YOUR CAR TAG CAN SAVE A BABY'S LIFE

Twelve months (July 2002-June 2003) into the Choose Life car tag sales, \$122,375 has been generated to benefit crisis pregnancy centers (CPC) in Mississippi. For thirty dollars extra, any Mississippi resident can purchase a Choose Life license plate. Of the 30 dollars, 24 goes from the State Tax

Commission to the Choose Life Advisory Committee (CLAC) to the CPC's. In Cleveland, \$4000 went towards the purchase of a sonogram machine for the Sav-A-Life CPC. Additionally, according to Rita Fisher, the office manager at the Sav-A-Life in Cleveland, "the tag provided \$1,700 that we used to provide abstinence education programs, post-abortion counseling, free pregnancy tests and counseling. For women with positive pregnancy test results, we provided booties as a symbol of life within them. Choose Life funds really helped with our diaper bags ministry, the clothes closet, and our parenting programs." Golden Triangle CPC in Columbus was able to purchase a sign with a \$750 gift after a tornado destroyed their previous one. Another \$837 helped with budgeted needs.

According to Nancy Pruett, the executive director of Sav-A-Life in Tupelo, the first check they received came at the end of one of the driest financial years in their history. The \$2,014 check helped to cover their budget expenses. The second check they received funded a parenting class for pregnant women, post-abortion services that included Bible studies and memorial services, and a copier for the office. "People don't realize that CPC's are on a shoestring budget. Money from the car tags helps us tremendously," said Pruett.

Seven states now have a Choose Life car tag. They are Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Oklahoma, South

Carolina, and Hawaii. Seventeen other states are considering legislation that would create a Choose Life tag. Since the Supreme Court ended an effort to block Choose Life license plates in Louisiana last December, the tags have been selling faster than many ever dreamed. In Mississippi, more than 5,200 tags

have been sold at county tax collector's

apply for Choose Life money, each CPC completes an application detailing the number of women they see and the special needs they may have. Using a formula based upon the numbers each organization turns in and the number of tags sold in that area, the CLAC distributes the tag money.

Executive Director Joyce Hopkins, who serves as a part-time employee of the Board of Directors of the CLAC, says she is amazed by the amount of money

creating the Choose Life car tag was not easy. In the 2001 regular session, Rep. Carmel Wells-Smith introduced the Choose Life bill in the House of Representatives and Senator Richard White filed the bill in the State Senate. Both bills were sent to committees and never resurfaced. A year later in 2002, because of a more unified lobbying effort by various pro-life groups, the car tag bill was passed into law and signed by Governor Musgrove. At one point in the Senate, all the different car tags were lumped into one enormous bill except for the Choose Life tag. Opponents of the Choose Life tag tried to omit it from the tag bill but thanks to the efforts of Senator Richard White and others, the Choose Life tag was included in the final legislation.

Many different pro-life groups worked

together to accomplish the goal of having a Choose Life tag for Mississippi. According to Sandy Ellard, President of Mississippi Right to Life, "National Right to Life and Mississippi Right to Life are overjoyed at the success of the Choose Life license plates. We are also pleased at the large coalition of interests who pulled together to accomplish the passage of the legislation. The Mississippi

Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission played a pivotal role in bringing the legislation through the legislature, and we are grateful for that."

Thus far, money has been sent to CPC's in the following cities: Clarksdale, Jackson, McComb, Meridian, Philadelphia, Vicksburg, Starkville, Columbus, Amory, Batesville, Cleveland, Corinth, Oxford, Picayune, and Tupelo. If you would like to apply for Choose Life money, please call 601-206-5816. The Board of Directors is made up of Terri Herring, President; Lee Yancey, Secretary; Father Brian Kaskie, Treasurer; Sandy Ellard; and Geraldine Gray.



*"The Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission played a pivotal role in bringing the legislation through the legislature, and we are grateful for that."*

that has been raised by the sale of the car tags. "Seeing Choose Life tags everywhere is so encouraging. All these tags represent how many people support life and that all regions of the state are profiting."

The first six months of 2003 have been extremely good because pro-life Mississippians contributed \$93,000 in tag sales. "We had hoped to go over \$100,000 our first calendar year but now it appears that \$200,000 is within reach," beamed

Terri Herring, President of the CLAC. "The tag sales are a great example of how a few people giving a relatively small amount of money can make a huge difference."

Getting the legislature to pass a law

lector's offices in the last 12 months generating \$122,375 for CPC's.

The Choose Life Advisory Committee's Board of Directors is responsible for distributing the funds. Representatives from Mississippi Right to Life, Jackson Right to Life, the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, the Catholic Diocese, and the CPC's make up the board. To

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action Commission updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at [rwwood@mbcb.org](mailto:rwwood@mbcb.org). Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.



# True Love Waits campaign set for Olympics

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — True Love Waits is going to the 2004 Summer Olympics. When the world turns its attention next year to Athens, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympics, True Love Waits pledges to abstinence will be a part of the celebration.

Hundreds of thousands of signed promises of sexual purity from Christian youth in at least 100 countries will be displayed and celebrated in Athens on Sunday, Aug. 22, 2004, during the XXVIII Olympiad. The pledge reads: "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

"This [international display] will amplify the voices of the Christian students who are standing for purity — either by being physically present in Athens or by being represented there by their pledge card," said Jimmy Hester, senior director of student ministry publishing of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. LifeWay produces True Love Waits which has been endorsed by 96 Christian entities.

"It's our prayer that as the world's attention is focused on Athens for the Olympic Games people will become aware of the hundreds of thousands of youth who have made decisions to protect themselves physically and spiritually by living

a life of purity," Hester said.

The Athens celebration will feature a display of True Love Waits promise cards from around the world and include an outdoor rally. Plans in the works include Olympic athletes who stand for purity challenging students to take a stand and youth from AIDS-ravaged nations giving testimonies of



courage and moral resolve. A major Christian TV network tentatively has committed to making the event a live TV special.

Other observances will take place all over the world as students and their churches commemorate the commitment to biblical sexual purity to coincide with the Sunday celebration in Athens. Churches will coordinate and participate in regional and local True Love Waits events leading up to and on Aug. 22, 2004. Many of the True Love Waits pledge cards that are part of these local and regional events will be sent to Athens for the international exhibit.

Pledge cards with an Athens/Olympic theme will be available for purchase, as will a True Love Waits Summer Olympics 2004 pin, beginning this summer. Additional information and updates about the Athens display and celebration, including mailing and shipping instructions for the pledge cards, will be posted in coming weeks on [www.truelovewaits.com](http://www.truelovewaits.com). A logo for True Love Waits Athens celebration and promotional fliers may be downloaded from the site.

The 2004 True Love Waits celebration marks the 10th year anniversary of the sexual abstinence campaign and is the fourth time commitment cards have been displayed internationally. The first worldwide display occurred in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1995 during the Baptist World Congress. More than 220,000 True Love Waits commitment cards representing countries from every continent were on display at that meeting. The second international showing occurred in February 1996 in Atlanta at True Love Waits Thru the Roof when 340,000 cards were stacked to the roof of the Georgia Dome. The third event was Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2000, in Australia as a symbol of crossing into the new millennium with commitments to purity.

For more information, visit [www.truelovewaits.com](http://www.truelovewaits.com), send e-mail inquiries to [truelovewaits@lifeway.com](mailto:truelovewaits@lifeway.com) or call 1-800-LUV-WAIT (588-9248).

## U.S. soldier confronting AIDS problem with TLW

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — United States Army Maj. Tyler Fitzgerald did what any good soldier does when faced with an aggressive enemy. He took the offensive.

Fitzgerald was about to finish his tour of duty as military liaison in Guyana, a small Caribbean country, but as a Christian he couldn't shake the feeling of desperation he had for the physical and spiritual condition of Guyana's people.

Guyana's HIV/AIDS crisis is second to that of Haiti's in the Western Hemisphere. The government's attempt to combat the situation decidedly excluded any abstinence programs. Fitzgerald found that conclusion unacceptable and in March turned to the Internet. His search landed at True Love Waits (TLW), the faith-based abstinence program produced by LifeWay Christian Resources that encourages students to be sexually abstinent until marriage. He'd heard of the success True Love Waits was having in curbing HIV/AIDS-related deaths in Africa. There has been more than a 30% decrease in Uganda alone in HIV/AIDS in the 10 years True Love Waits has been the officially recognized method of combating the epidemic.

Fitzgerald exchanged a flurry of e-mails with Ernest McAninch of LifeWay's international department. A solution was found that potentially could change the future of Guyana much as Uganda's

has been. True Love Waits has no budget to send someone to a foreign country to teach. But the church where True Love Waits was pioneered more than a decade ago, Tulip Grove Church near Nashville, accepted a unique challenge: be pioneers again, this time in another culture.

"Tyler hoped government officials would use the True Love Waits model to promote abstinence," McAninch recalled. "When the group decided it would not adopt an abstinence approach, Tyler did not give up. He offered to organize church leaders to promote an abstinence-until-marriage movement and received commitments of support from Baptists, Wesleyans, Methodists, Youth with a Mission, and the Full Gospel church."

McAninch, a member at Tulip Grove, approached Ken Clayton, the church's pastor, with the challenge of helping. Clayton saw the opportunity for the church to support overseas missions and asked Alec Cort, the church's current youth minister, to consider going to Guyana to teach True Love Waits to the coalition Fitzgerald was building.

Cort had serious doubts. During his 10 years of vocational youth work, he never felt an overseas calling. "My wife, Allyson, and I prayed about the trip and sought God's guidance and decided we would go," he said.

Cort has taught True Love Waits to Tulip Grove's youth

for four years. Clayton told the church Cort and his wife were prepared to go. The church's members responded by funding the April trip through a special offering. The Corts arrived in Guyana within six weeks of Fitzgerald's initial inquiry.

Cambelville Church hosted the training that drew more than 150 people of diverse backgrounds including public school and government officials, representatives of non-Christian non-government organizations and churches and Christians from several denominations. Cort found the schedule that Fitzgerald and Cambelville pastor Charles Van Dyke had developed to be quite ambitious.

"I had planned on presenting two 90-minute seminars each day for two days but saw I was scheduled to conduct two three-hour seminars both days," Cort said. "Tyler dismissed my concern, smiled and said, 'You will do great!'"

There is a great deal of racial and political violence within the country as two factions war for control of the republic of almost 700,000 people. There is an eclectic mix of Christians, Hindus and Muslims that fosters a great deal of prejudice. Marxism is prevalent, and few people own land. Good jobs are hard to find. The poverty overwhelmed Cort as he found a people lacking hope. He learned that many people turn to sex searching for fulfillment.

Cort used the Bible to

define marriage and sex. The attentive audience asked dozens of questions and spoke openly of personal situations. The clock was of little regard.

"I was amazed at how well we were received," Cort said. "We later discovered that the Guyanese are a culture that is non-sensitive to time constraints. Historically an agrarian society, the factory whistle has never industrialized them. There is little movement due to the heat. Few own cars or can afford cab fare. Since there is very little to do in Guyana, the seminar was a major event."

Attendance rose to nearly 300 by the end of the first day. Cort realized from the questions being raised about sex that no one had ever taught about these particular issues. He saw people hungry for the knowledge they were receiving.

Cort hopes to return to Guyana with a mission team from Tulip Grove to encourage and assist pastors. Of 24 Protestant churches in the country, two have paid pastors.

"With help, the church has tremendous potential to stand up and break the cycle of sin and oppression," Cort said. "The people are so hungry to hear about True Love Waits, and they are hungrier still for more biblical truth. We can give them resources, teach and train the people to serve beyond what the pastor is able to do, excite and encourage them, and in so doing, reestablish hope in their hearts."